

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 L-03

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EUR-12 ARAE-00

PRS-01 /068 W

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P R 021945Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2345

INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY PARAMARIBO

AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GEORGETOWN 0224

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2 (IMPTODET)

TAGS: PFOR, CU, GY, AO

SUBJECT: CUBAN REFUELING OPERATION: TANKER DEPARTS BUT PLANE STILL
HERE.

REF: GEORGETOWN 203 AND PREVIOUS

1. CUBAN TANKER 10 DE OCTUBRE LEFT TIMEHRI DOCK AND GUYANA EARLY
MORNING JANUARY 31 AFTER STAY OF NINE DAYS IN GUYANESE TERRITORY
AND DISCHARGE OF REPORTEDLY 20 FUEL TANKS, UNKNOWN QUANTITY JET
FUEL, TWO TANKER TRUCKS (ORIGINALLY REPORTED AS RUSSIAN-MADE
BUT NOW SAID TO BE GDR-MANUFACTURED) AND POSSIBLY OTHER CARGO
REPORTED BY TWO SOURCES OF UNCERTAIN RELIABILITY TO BE CRATED
ARMS AND AMMUNITION. A RELIABLE PORT SOURCE REPORTS THAT HE
PERSONALLY OBSERVED WOODEN CRATES BEING REMOVED FROM SHIP WITH
CRANE AT LINDEN WHILE SHIP GUARDED BY GUYANA DEFENSE FORCE.
SSAME SOURCE CALCULATED FROM DISPLACEMENT DIFFERENTIAL ON ARRIVAL
AND SHORTLY BEFORE DEPARTURE THAT 10 DE OCTUBRE OFFLOADED ABOUT
2,000 METRIC TONS OF CARGO. SOURCE NOTED THAT SHIP NOT LISTED
LLOYDS REGISTER, BUT THAT SUPPLEMENT SHOWS IT TRANSFERRED
FROM RUSSIAN REGISTRY UNDER FORMER CYRILLIC ALPHABET NAME TO CUBAN
REGISTRY.

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2. HIGH-LEVEL CUSTOMS OFFICIAL HAS NOW CONFIRMED TO DCM THAT MYSTERIOUS SHIPMENT (GEORGETOWN 36) ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE BY AIR WHICH PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE WAS HAVING GDF ALONE RECEIVE WAS UNLOADED FROM 10 DE OCTUBRE AT LINDEN. HE SAID CUSTOMS OFFICERS WERE ORDERED BY PM'S OFFICE NOT TO INSPECT SHIP, CARGO OR DOCUMENTS.

3. LOCAL JOURNALIST TOLD PAO THAT THE THREE CUBAN MINISTERS HE HE HAD PREVIOUSLY MENTIONED AS BEING ON PLANE FROM AFRICA (PARA 4 REFTEL) SAW PM BURNHAM AT HIS RESIDENCE MORNING JANUARY 24. LOCAL JAMAICAN CHARGE WHO HAD GIVEN THEM VISAS FOR JAMAICA ALLEGEDLY ACCOMPANIED CUBANS TO AIRPORT AS PROTOCL MATTER. WHILE THERE, JOURNALIST ASSERTED JAMAICAN CHARGE TOOK PHOTO OF CUBA PLANE (CU-699). POLICE REPORTEDLY DETAINED HIM FOR 30 MINUTES, RELEASING HIM ONLY AFTER CONFISCATING FILM FROM CAMERA.

4. ONE CUBAN BRITTANIA WAS STILL PARKED AT TIMEHRI AIRPORT ON DISTANT APRON AFTERNOON FEB 1. AIRPORT EMPLOYEE SAID IT HAD BEEN THERE FOR A WEEK OR MORE. THIS IS PRESUMABLY EITHER CU-699, STILL DISABLED OR STRANDED FOR LACK OF FUEL BECAUSE THE NEWLY BROUGHT CUBAN FUEL WAS CONTAMINATED (REFTEL PARA 6) OR ELSE THE UNCONFIRMED THIRD PLANE WHICH ONE SOURCE REPORTED ARRIVED JANUARY 26 (GEORGETOWN 165).

5. STILL NO MENTION IN LOCAL PRESS OR RADIO OF CUBAN SHIP, PLANES OR FUEL TANKS. BURNHAM ALLEGEDLY PLAYING THIS CLOSE TO CHEST, KEEPING MOST OF CABINET AND POLICE OFFICIALS IN DARK, THOUGH GDF OBVIOUSLY IN ON AT LEAST PART OF OPERATION. KREBS

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Message Attributes

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